Serving the communities of Albany, El Cerrito and Kensington

Vol. III No. 3

Albany Targets Hospital Albany Home Raided In Prostitution Sweep

for New Library Site suing Doctors also daim building

By Bobby Calvan

ALBANY — The city is concing buying the Albany diffice space, meeting rooms as well as the library, according to year promise, it was announced by the announcement comes as a prize to the Albany Medical on the Albany Medical of the purchase of the building to the Group is now successful, Alta Bates had agreed to the purchase of the building is only a "possibility."

Several other potential buyers have expressed an interest in purchasing the building, according to Coldwell Banker.

The Council made the announcement after breaking into a cold of the Colon of the Colon of the William of the Albany Medical of the purchase of the building is only a "possibility."

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The Council made the announcement.

Albany Hill Masterplan

During its main session Monday night, the City Council ap-

Albany Hill Masterplan
During its main session Monday night, the City Council approved in principle the creation of
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to make the announcement.

Albany Hill Masterplan

During its main session Monday night, the City Council approved in principle the creation of a masterplan for developing Albany Hill for potential park



Left, a woman is led out of the Albany house where police broke a suspected prostitution ring Tuesday. Right, a bedroom in the

By Bobby Calvan

ALBANY – Two women were arrested by police Tuesday in connection with an alleged house of prostitution in Albany.

Police arrested Michelle Marie Louazil, 40, who police said operated a prostitution house at 1315 Marin Avenue. Rebecca Jo Boren, 23, of Oakland, an alleged employee of the woman, also was arrested in connection with thoust.

A third employee who showed up at the house moments after the

house was decorated with \$115 in cash.

charges of prostitution, pandering and being in a house of "ill-repute." Louazil may also be charged with operating without a business license.

Louazil has been released on bond. Boren has also been 'released.

Police raided the house late Tuesday afternoon after an undercover police officer equipped with a "wire," or concealed microphone, solicited the business. Police entered the premises with a search warrant and found employee lists and

Grigsby Files \$1 Million

Claim In Beating Case the head with a flashlight, hand-cuffed and driven to Point Isabel in Richmond by Officer Scott schement by an El Cerrito police officer has filed a \$1 million claim against that city for what his attorney calls "outrageous" conduct on the part of El Cerrito officials.

Oakland attorney Oliver Jones, who is representing 41-year-old Leroy Grigsby, said the city was trying to "coerce" and "intimidate" his client by pressuring him to sign a release paying him \$10,000 not to sue the city.

Grigsby was allegedly beaten in officer head of the head with a flashlight, hand-cuffed and driven to Point Isabel in Richmond by Officer Scott disturbed man, adding that the city took advantage of his client by finding him just two days after the alleged incident took place and offering the \$10,000 release.

He said the circumstances surant count yesterday afternoon to set preliminary hearing dates.

The officer, who resigned from his position, faces three felony counts and one misdemeanor count for charges that could send him to state prison for a maximum of eight years if convicted.

Mayor; Search For Manager Narrowing

By Will Tizard

EL CERRITO - The field of possible search firms to locate a new city manager narrowed to three Monday night when the City Council named the companies it will pursue talks with.

Shannon Associates, Ralph Anderson, both of Sacramento, and California Municipal Consultants of Los Gatos will receive requests for half-hour presentations at a special meeting Oct. 24, open to the public.

Fees are expected to range from \$8,700 to \$20,000, with another \$4,000 to \$7,000 in expenses before a permanent city manager can be found.

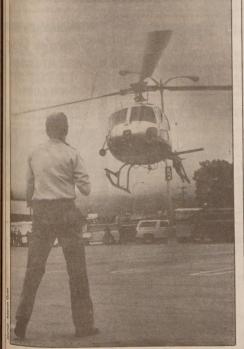
The council also named Jean Sir mayor and Bob Bacon mayor pro-tem by unanimous vote. Sir will replace former Mayor Anna Howe, who resigned due to her bout with cancer. The council now needs one member, who will be appointed after interviews.

See back page

Siri Named EC Ending the San Pablo Ave. Blahs



EL CERRITO -- San Pablo
Avenue's less-than-charming character will get a \$2.4 million boost including a landscaped median island and synchronized traf-



Eye on the Sky

By Christina Smith

assistance agreement to ensure rapid and effective response to emergencies throughout the Bay Area. "The basic idea (of the safe-

Bear set down in the El Cerrito
Plaza parking lot Saturday, to
the delight of dozens of
children there to participate in
the fifth annual Tri-City Safety
Day.

The event, organized by the
El Cerrito Fire Department,
was attended by safety and law
enforcement agencies from all
over the East Bay. The agencles are part of a mutual

"The basic idea (of the safetyday) is to let people see what
agencies we can call upon in El
Cerrito and give them an opportunity to learn more about
safety," said Ralph Fagueira,
organizer of the gathering.

The event was largely geared
toward children, with pint-size
plastic fire hats and badges
available for the asking,
See back page

Police Beat

Mini-Mart robbery

ALBANY -- The following is a partial list of police reports for the previous week:

Mini-mart Robbery

Mini-mart Robbery

• A man pulled off an early morning robbery Sunday at the ARCO Mini Mart at the corner of Marin and San Pablo avenues. The suspect, a black male who is believed to be in his early 20s, 5 ft. 9 inches tall and wearing a gray jacket, dark pants and a gray cap, fled with \$180 in \$20 and \$5 bills.

According to police reports, the suspect entered the store slightly before 1:52 a.m. and asked the clerk for a pack of cigarettes. When the clerk handed the cigarettes over, the suspect placed his right hand inside his jacket and ordered the clerk to "open the cash register, this is a stick up."

The pack of cigarettes left.

up."

The pack of cigarettes left behind by the robbery suspect has been brushed for fingerprints.

No getaway vehicle was heard or seen.

or seen.

Theft

◆ Silver-gray 1978 Ford Grenada stolen from the 1200 block of Brighton Avenue. License plates: 2KDH369.

◆ A chrome Mongoose BMX bicycle was stolen from a garage on the 600 block of Madison Avenue. Two other bikes in the garage were left behind by thieves.

Keith when

Keith, where are you?

• The owner of a 1988 Hyundai GLS was befriended by a man named Keith. Keith borrowed the Hyundai and promised to return it. The car and—and Keith—have not been spotted

Garbage collection

A transient found digging through garbage on 1500 block of Solano Avenue decided to seek "neat trash" elsewhere when police came by.

Potty lock boo-boo
Police assisted a woman locked in a laundromat restroom in the 1400 block of Solano Avenue. After jimmying the knob, the door lock released and the woman was freed.

Assault and bat-tery?
Two men who tailed another man, the apparent victim of this altercation, as he walked home from work got into a verbal match. Words were apparently heated enough that one man pulled out a baseball bat from his car and threatened the victim. The victim fled, and so did the suspects.

Happy retirement
After more than 20 years with the the City of Albany, Nancy Ramos is retiring. She most recently worked as a parking enforcement officer with the police department. According to fellow employees at the police department, "she will be missed."

Crank calls abound

By Christina Smith

By Christina Smith
The following is a list of crime that occurred in Kensington.
Mischief

A man on Anson reported damage to the mirror of his vehicle on Sept. 17.

An officer reported observing two female juveniles possibly vandalizing a mailbox on the corner of Arlington and Rincon on Sept. 18.

Medical Assists

Medical Assists

A woman reported her husband was having a seizure in the breakfast nook on Sept. 16. The man was transported to Kaiser Hospital.

A woman

man was transported to Kaiser Hospital.

A woman requested a welfare check on a woman living on Trinity on Sept. 19. The resident was found unconscious and transported to Brookside Hospital.

A bus driver reported a man had collapsed on his bus on Sept. 19. The man was transported to Herrick Hospital.

Arlington Pharmacy reported that a man was having a stroke on Sept. 21. The man refused treatment and was transported thome.

Smoke-free

class of 2000

grade classes will include smoking prevention lessons for the classroom and take-home items for parents. Alameda County teachers who want the materials should call the project at 632-9606.

should call the project at 632-9606.

Next spring when the Class of 2000 graduates from first grade, the project will encourage special celebrations across California. Gilbert said the graduating students will invite the 1988 kindergarteners to join them in choosing to be smoke-free and each year the challenge will be passed on to the next first grade students.

"This program won't produce a ripple effect," Gilbert said, "It will produce a tidal wave."

Over The Phone

Albany police reported a 911 call from Highland on Sept. 17. A juvenile was contacted and everything was fine.

A man reported receiving several threatening phone calls in the last few days on Sept. 18. Unknown male voice.

Albany police reported a 911 call from Canon pertaining to approximately eight people talking a little loudly while walking towards the park on Sept. 19.

Albany police reported a 911 call from Purdue on Sept. 19 about an irate citizen stating he was going to kill the people on the street. The man was apparently angry about noise from garbage collectors.

A woman on Oberlin reported Sept. 21 she had been receiving annoying phone calls for approximately three months.

Lockouts

A woman on Lake reported being locked out of her residence on Sept. 16. Assistance rendered.

A woman on Arlington reported locking her keys in her vehicle and requested assistance

in gaining entry on Sept. 17.

• A woman at Highland requested assistance on lockout on Sept. 18. Entry gained.

• An officer was flagged down by a woman locked out of her car on Sept. 20. Unable to gain entry; AAA called.

Accidents

Acitizen reported a non—injury accident at Anson and Eureka on Sept. 16.

An officer reported finding a vehicle that was the victim of a hit and run on Lake and Beloit on Sept. 17.

Etc.

A citizen reported that juveniles on skateboards were creating a hazard at Berkeley Park and Stratford on Sept. 17. Juveniles were gone on arrival.

Albany police requested assistance with a disturbance at Albany Bowl on Sept. 18. Two suspects taken into custody.

Officer reported finding a vehicle alarm sounding on Arlington. Alarm activated when officer transmitted on car radio.

Newts expected

Fall is approaching and park officials are making plans for the first rains and the accompanying newt migration at Tilden Regional Park in Berkeley.

East Bay Regional Park District officials say they will periodically close Tilden's South Park Drive after heavy rains to protect the slimy migrants.

Newts are small, yellowish brown salamanders common in the regional parks.

During the wet season, they crawl from the trees and woods to the ponds and marshes where they mate.

Alameda County school superintendents, led by County Superintendent William Berck, decided at their Sept. 9 meeting to support the Smoke-Free Class of 2000 project. SFC 2000 is a national anti-smoking educational effort aimed at first graders who will graduate in the year 2000. The project is sponsored by local coalitions formed of the American Cancer Society, the American Heart Association and the American Lung Association. In May, 1984, U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop issued a challenge to the nation to create a smoke-free society by the end of this century. He said, "Bend your efforts in the next years to seeing a high school senior class nationwide graduating as the first smoke-free generation."

Smoke-Free Class of 2000 is the educational and awareness project that the tri-agency group developed in response to Dr. Koop's challenge. Its aim is to keep America's young free from addiction to cigarettes. According to Annette Gilbert, local coalition representative, "This probably is the most ambitious school health program ever undertaken. It will stretch over 12 years and target mearly three million American children. The payoff in inproved health prospects for these kids will be enormous."

The project will involve at least half of the first graders in the state this year, a total of 150,000 students. School kits for first grades classes will include smoking prevention lessons for the

The park district says South Park Drive, which connects Griz-zly Peak Boulevard to Wildcat Canyon Road, is a major newt thoroughfare but also a popular automobile route. And the speedy vehicles are hazardous to the slower newts

vehicles are hazardous to the slower newts.

Newts frequently make their trek in the evening, so road closures will likely occur between dusk and 10 p.m. following heavy rains. Signs will be posted soon informing the public about the likelihood of detours.

Park naturalists plan eventually to monitor the newt population and come up with a plan to protect the unusual creatures.

Janie Evans, O.D.

25 Mardi Merrick, O.D.

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LITA spells love for Contra Costa seniors Calendar chools

second annual RUSD jon Festival is scheduled urday, October 1, from 11 to 6 p.m., at Contra Costa in San Pablo. The "Get in Education" rally will inocal celebrities, prizes, and nances by the high school ag bands. Admission and are free.

castro Elementary
29: Student Holiday,
Inservice Day
6: PTA Board Meeting,

p.m.
| the school at 234-6200.
| fairmont Elementary
| University Lab
| the school at 525-5235. Mile school at 325-5235.
Harding Elementary
Gifted-Talented
M. 5: School Pictures
the school at 525-0273.
Kensington Elementary
Gifted-Talented

Letters

familiar?
we two recommendations
City Council: (1) Set out
objectives for these comto work with, i.e., if the
council has a pre-existing
pinion, indicate this to the

last night an official told us at the usual animals that roam wond Tilden Park aren't there

-0-

themical bug zapper?

committee ignored

Oct. 4: Joint Parent Groups Meeting (PTA, KEF, Dads Club), 7:30 p.m., Multipurpose Room Call the school at 526-7343. Madera Elementary Sept. 29: Student Holiday

Call the school at 526-7343.

Madera Elementary

Sept. 29: Student Holiday
(Staff Development)
Oct. 3: PTA Board Meeting, 7
p.m., Multipurpose Room
Oct. 4: PTA Meeting, 7:30
p.m., Multipurpose Room, topic:
bylaws
Call the school at 235-4499.
Mira Vista Elementary
Classical Studies
Oct. 7: Student Holiday
(Teacher Inservice)
Call the school at 232-4064.
Adams Middle School
Gifted-TalentedInternational-Futures
Call the school at 235-5464.
Portola Junior High
Oct. 12: Makeup Pictures
Call the school at 524-0405.
El Cerrito High
V i s u a 1 / P e r f o r m i n g
Arts/Humanities
Oct. 4: All City Council
Barbecue
Oct. 6: Minimum Day, Back-Continued on page 18

Continued on page 18

committee, and (2) when rejecting their recommendations give the committee some credit for the work they did and try to justify why you are ignoring their findings.

And another recommendation to the citizens of Albany: Think twice before volunteering to be on a committee. You may feel as if you've wasted a lot of your time.

Nancy Nelson

Nancy Nelson is Chair of the Albany Parks and Recreation Commission.

of the absence of any bugs that are usually around.

Could it be that Chernobyl or the nearby refineries are causing this?

PERSONAL COMPUTER Oakland

By Daniel S. Levine

EL CERRITO -- At the age of 93, Margaret has lived in the Hillhaven Brookvue nursing facility in San Pablo for five years now. When she was 88, she felt unable to continue caring for herself. Her husband of 51 years had died some time before and she did not want to become a burden to her children.

"You get old and people don't want you," Margaret says. "They really don't want you -- you're just a nuisance. The sooner you're gone, the happier they will be."

Margaret's daughter usually

be."
Margaret's daughter usually visits on Sundays, but Margaret wishes that she would come midweek too. Failing eyesight now prevents her from reading and she says "I sit here most of the time like a dummy because I can't see."

Ina Rife makes the difference in Margaret's life. A LITA (Love Is The Answer) volunteer, Rife has visited Margaret once a week for the last five years. "I love it when when I have company," says Margaret.

Ina tells her that she is baking sourdough bread next week and will bring her some, as she has in the past. Margaret's face becomes animated and she describes how good the bread was last time.

last time.

LITA,a Contra Costa-based program, matches volunteers as one-on-one friends to nursing home residents who have no one to visit them regularly. The California Association of Health Facilities reports that over half of the people who live in nursing homes are not visited by anyone on a regular basis. "Loneliness may be our major terminal illness," says Emily Caperton, ex-

ecutive director of LITA.

Nursing homes are filled with people who "have lost a spouse, lost most people in their family, lost their home, health, everything, and don't have a single person," says Caperton. "They can be in a great facility with great food, but a person can still die of loneliness."

Hillhaven Activities Director Briana Nelson works with LITA to match residents with LITA to match residents with LITA to match residents, providing them with a sense of worth, giving them something to which they can look forward, and serving as a connection to the community outside. She is currently trying to match 15 residents who have no one to visit them.

Jimmy Hernandez is a LITA volunteer. It has been a year since his 11-year-old son died of a cerebral hemorrhage. He talks about the day he removed his son from the respirator and held him for 15 minutes as he lay dying. It was this contact with death, the deep depression which followed, and the interaction with a support group over the next year that led Hernandez to become a LITA volunteer.

"It's not out of a sense of obligation," explains Hernandez, referring to the support he received from volunteers. "It's out of empathy." Hernandez says he knows the pain of feeling alone and that "sometimes a hug, a smile, or a handshake makes all the difference in the world. It really helped me to understand that there's love out there."

Hernandez visits Joe, a 97-year-old resident of Hallmark Nursing Center in San Pablo. While they have only been paired two weeks, the impact upon Joe



Above, Jimmy Hernandez and new friend Joe strike a casual pose. Left, LITA Executive Directo Emily Caperton works at tasks such as trying to gain funding for the community program.

has been great. Last Sunday, when Hernandez visited, Joe ate his entire lunch. Speaking of an appetite that he was new to him, Joe told Hernandez, "Keep coming around. You're good for me."

"It's not the quantity, but the quality of the time spent with people that really makes the difference," says Hernandez. Often it's not a matter of talking, but of listening. "Joe loves to talk, and he's got a lot to say."

Hernandez brought Joe a box of Kleenex one day and tells of how much it meant to his new friend. "For you or me it wouldn't mean much. You have to buy one less lottery ticket, or two less cups of coffee, but it means so much to them to know that someone thinks of them and cares."

Hernandez feels strongly that

that someone thinks of them and cares."

Hernandez feels strongly that people in nursing homes not be thought of as separate from everyone else. "They are a part of us," he says. "They are a part of this society. They feel like they are lepers or something. They are shoved aside and no one wants them, but there is so much history in them, so much to be accessed."

LITA now has volunteers placed in 14 of the 35 nursing homes in Contra Costa County. Caperton is trying to put the organization through a radical expansion, but needs more funding and more volunteers.

According to Caperton, LITA needs a special person who is not afraid to come in contact with someone else's suffering. She also explains that it is important that people in nursing homes not only be recipients of love, but have someone to love.

Caperton also talks of the barrier which people must overcome to volunteer, saying that many people fear that the person in a nursing home may be themselves one day. Once you cross that line, says Caperton, "there's a lot of love, a lot of reward. It's getting through the door that is the hard part."

Like the 35-year-old Hernandez, who works full-time as a commercial printer, Caperton talks about the change in the nature of volunteers. She says it used to be housewives, but now most of the volunteers work full-time.

"There is an emptiness in peoples' lives," says Caperton. "Once you have the VCR, the two cars, and a swimming pool, there is still a lot of emptiness in our lives. This type of work give a sense of family, a sense of community."

Speaking of the difficulty of

our lives. This type of work give a sense of family, a sense of community."

Speaking of the difficulty of getting funding, Caperton says, "There is not enough emphasis on the aged. For an organization based on pure humanity, pure love, it's very hard to get funding."

LITA of Contra Costa was founded in 1980 by Iris Suhl of El Cerrito. It was the first independent expansion of LITA, Inc. of Marin and Sonoma counties which were founded by Mae Wygant in 1975. It is operates independently of the other LITAs, but they are all cooperative and support each other.

Training is provided for volunteers by LITA.
They are located at 6830 Stockton Avenue in El Cerrito and can be reached at 527-2055.

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Newsmaker's Dossier

Portraits in four dimensions

Gaynor paints across the gap between worlds



By Daniel S. Levine
EL CERRITO -- When artist
Mary Gaynor was commissioned
by a psychic to paint a portrait of
three spirits which surround his
aura, she entered the light trance

in which she normany palms, travelled to another dimension, and painted what she saw. Upon seeing the finished work, the psychic immediately returned it, asking that she repaint the third

It's time now for some of us to get

It's time now for some of us to get more conscious."

Educated at Wellesley, Gaynor received a B.A. in art history. She moved to New York, where she continued to study art and became part of the underground art scene. Seven years ago, she moved to the Bay area and says that she remains outside of the California art world.

"I'm too shamanistic for the Bay area visionary art movement," Gaynor says. "I'm fed up with begging people to show my work and having to explain it and make excuses for it." It is because of this that Gaynor exhibits in more metaphysical settings like The Bearded Giraffe, rather than traditional galleries.

While Gaynor has met resistance and is frequently asked to explain her paintings, she says her work is not that unusual. "If you go out of America and go to all these other cultures it's nothing."

Referring to cultures that have painted spirits for years, Gaynor says, "Those people would know exactly what I am and what I do and they would have words for what I do and they would all understand it from the time that they are little."

Gaynor says that her paintings

Gaynor says that her paintings are demanding upon their viewers. "They require that you really center in your body and

figure, because she had mistaken one of her spirits for one of his. Such are the problems of being a psychic painter.

Those were the early days, and Gaynor says she is much better at tuning in now. A show of 20 of Gaynor's paintings opened Sunday at "The Bearded Giraffe" in El Cerrito, a bookstore that specializes in "books for lighting the inner lamp."

Gaynor gave a slide presentation, which included many works which were not displayed in the exhibit, as she spoke about her work to a group of 30 who crammed into the bookstore's small quarters.

Comparing herself to a sentitive rediscontract.

med into the bookstore's small quarters.

Comparing herself to a sensitive radio receiver, Gaynor explained that she is "drawing realities that you can't see with your regular eyes, but which are all around us."

Spirits are the subject of her paintings, which are usually dominated by a single range of color and have a simplicity of design and a directness in their treatment. There is a recurring vocabulary of symbols, such as swirls and stars, that are consistent throughout her work.

Gaynor, who describes herself as a medium, someone who "a higher vibration spirit can work through," says that a lot of artist are mediums, but do know it. "What they call inspiriation is probably working with spirits.

slow down and allow the enter your field." She says the difficult for people who live culture "that's always waithe next commercial."

Color is very important Gaynor. "It's my big languaghs has says, as she explains the shorter wave-lengths of light purple and blue, have a "and the commercial like red and orange," and that the slower quencies like red and orange, "more earthly, less spin energy."

Her more recent works a moved away from the one

"more earthly, less spinsenergy."

Her more recent works moved away from the continuous and now tend to dominated by reds and yellow "I'm more in the painting sun I had to make a deal with spirits. In the old ones, the spirits. In the old ones, the spirits in the old ones, the spirits. In the old ones, the spirits. In the old ones, the spirits in the old ones, the spirits getting something in." describes this as a "heats balance."

An astrologer and heat Gaynor sees the paintings as extention of her psychic wot "I'm working with very down of the spirits getting which have to do with transformations of peoples her "helping people change in "helping people change in "The exhibit which is at a "The exhibit which is at a "The exhibit which is at a sun of the spirits and the spirits and the spirits are the spirits and the spirits and the spirits are the spirits and the spirits are the spirits and the spirits and the spirits are the spirits and the s

The exhibit, which is at Stockton Avenue, will through Halloween, the day Gaynor says is "the best day the year."

A weekly section featuring local businesses and

Sheepskin seat covers they're baaad!

By Barbara Davidson

ALBANY -- Sheepskin will not ignite if it were to rub shoulders, so to speak, with a lit cigarette.

This is useful to know in two cases: If you are a sheep with a nicotine habit, or if you simply want to buy the fuzzy stuff to spruce up the interior of your car. According to Dave Hong, manager of Cozy Sheepskin at 518 San Pablo Ave. in Albany, if a cigarette were dropped, it would leave a burn mark, but if the burned area were brushed with a wire pet burch, the burned part would come off, leaving no trace of damage.

best sheepskin comes from Australia and New Zealand. South American skins are not as good. They don't cure it properly, so an odor remains. Also, the skin itself is about half as thick as Australian sheepskin,'' he said.

Hong said that auto parts stores sell one-size-fits-all seat covers and they don't fit. Cozy Sheepskin stocks seat covers for a variety of seat sizes and styles. "When a customer comes in, he can actually try the seat covers on, so he can sit on it and see how it feels and how the color looks in the car," he said.

There is a choice of 14 colors, and the installation is free. Special colors cannot be ordered, because the factory is not set up to dye single items. Most people buy natural or tan, and Mercedes owners use a lot of silver greys or gold colors. Hong noted that whenever married men come in, they always ask their wives what color ro choose before making a purchase.

Sheepskin seats are most often sold to owners of Mercedes, Volvos, and BMWs, who usually buy the top of the line. When people have old cars and the seats are worn out, they usually buy imitation sheepskin, also sold by Hong.

One woman purchased four sets of seat covers for her family wire pet burch, the burned part would come off, leaving no trace of damage.

Hong said there are other advantages to buying sheepskin seat covers for cars, trucks, vans and airplanes (nine-seaters). He has been selling sheepskin in Albany since the store was moved here from Los Angeles 14 years ago. "There was too much competition down there," he said. "Sheepskin warms you up in winter and cools you off in summer," said Hong. "Sheepskin seats are most often sweat on a long drive. Some customers, after taking a long auto trip, have returned to tell me that it made a big difference having the sheepskin from Australian merino sheep. The



Cozy Sheepskin Manager Dave Hong presides over a multitude of the furry covers.

those who buy more than one set at a time.

"Older people know more about sheepskins than younger people," said Hong, "because they have had it before. Young people tend to go for the look and so they buy the imitation because they think they can't afford the real thing. It is not true that sheepskin is expensive." Hong's prices are 20 percent lower than those of the retail outlets he sells to throughout Northern C a l i f o r n i a.

The price for sheepskin varies from \$39 to \$79 per seat, depending on the thickness of the fur, the number of pieces sewn together, and the type of backing under from a single pelt. The less costly sheepskins are made from patched pieces which have a synthetic backing and a thinner pile. Imitation sheepskin (100 percent acrylic) costs \$39 to \$59 a pair but 100 years, or more.

Custom-made seat covers cost \$119 each and have to be made at the factory in Los Angeles where the patterns for most car seats are available. Hand tailoring can be completed locally. Hong also sells uncut pelts of original sheepskin on original backing (the natural skin). He points out that the reason sheep-skin is cut down to make seat those who buy more than one set at a time.

"Older people know more about sheepskins than younger people," said Hong, "because they have had it before. Young people tend to go for the look and so they buy the imitation because they think they can't afford the real thing. It is not true that sheepskin is expensive." Hong's prices are 20 percent lower than those of the retail outlets he sells to throughout Northern C a l i f o r n i a.

The price for sheepskin varies from \$39 to \$79 per seat, depending on the thickness of the fur, the number of pieces sewn together, and the type of backing used. The \$79 sheepskin has a

covers is to keep it from getting matted, which retains looks and

comfort.

Uncut pelts are most commonly used for rugs or furniture throws. Prices range from \$60 for a single piece to \$350 for six pieces, which would make up a 6 x 9 rug. Nine pieces or larger would have to be custom-made.

would make up a 6 x 9 rug. Nine pieces or larger would have to be custom-made.

Single-piece sheepskins are used a lot for baby chairs or draped over the seat of a motorcycle. One couple from the West Indies ordered a queen-sized pelt for \$950 to be used on their wedding night. Another couple came in to purchase a rug for erotic purposes and proceeded to share their fantasies with the soft-spoken, Korean-born Hong.

Cozy Sheepskin makes front and rear dash covers at the factory for cars, trucks and vans. Made since 1960 for \$39, they are used to protect from sun damage. Although the sheepskin covers the speakers, Hong said that the sound will still travel through the fabric. However, he will cut holes for the speakers at a customer's request.

Additionally, there are steering-wheel covers and seat belt covers at Cozy Sheepskin and those fall prey to the one-size-fitsall syndrome. Hong said steering-wheel covers provide comfort for arthritis sufferers because it is less painful to grip the wheel. Custom-made head rest and arm rest covers can be made for vans. During the Christmas season, Hong sells 14 inch sheepskin teddy and panda bears with 5/8 inch leece, an unusual item in a time when synthetic bears are the rule of thumb.

Money

Pertinent financial information for the layperson from local accountant Jaime T. Fukumae

Playing around with 'kiddie tax'

The Tax Reform Act of 1986 has made it harder for parents to claim income-producing assets to their children in order to take advantage of the child's

to take advantage of the child's lower tax rate.

In its simplest form, the "kiddie tax" taxes the net unearned income (e.g. interest, dividends, rents) of children under 14 at their parents' tax rate. It reduces the child's standard deduction to either \$500 or earned income (up to \$3000), whichever is greater. The tax does not take effect until the child's unearned income exceeds \$1000.

Some suggestions to help you reduce the impact of the new tax:

Purchase tax-free instruments like municipal bonds for children.
Give children assets with inherent tax-deferral features such as Series EE bonds or annuities.
Give children low-income, high growth stocks and bonds or real estate parcels with appreciation potential that can be sold after the child turns 14.
Parents who own a business have additional options:
Hire the children as employees in the firm to shift family income to the child's lower tax rate as earned income.
Give the child money to

income.

● Give the child money to

purchase business equipment. The child can lease the equipment to the family firm, off-setting the rental income against depreciation while the parent takes lease deductions. The equipment can be sold after the child turns 14.

Business owners need to keep in mind that these transactions must have a legitimate business purpose and be armslength transactions in order to be audit-proof.

There are still important reasons to shift assets to children, such as estate planning and college savings. The "kiddie tax" may be of less significance in these situations.

Chamber News

Workers' comp. crisis



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American Legion
Albany Post 292
The monthly dinner meeting will be held at the Albany Vets Memorial Bldg. on Oct. 7.
Lasagna, salad and other delicacies will be featured at Betty's Italian Night Dinner.
Make reservations be calling Wynn at 236-0476, Betty at 232-1943 or Catherine at 232-1943 or Catherine at 232-1943 or Catherine at 235-4770. The dinner, with good food and friendship for members and auxiliary, wives husbands and guests, is \$5 and begins at 6:30 p.m.
The regular business

p.m. ne regular business meeting is

The regular business meeting is on Oct. 21.

El Cerrito Democratic Club
The club's 36th Annual Dinner will be held on Oct. 22 at the Mira Vista Church in El Cerrito.
Assemblyman Tom Bates will speak on The Changing Family.
Tickets are \$8 in advance, \$9 at the door and \$4 for children. Social hour is at 6 p.m. followed by dinner at 7. For more information call \$225-6536 or \$25-5428.
Rotary Club of El Cerrito
Dr. Lou Falcon, professor of

Rotery Club of El Cerrito
Dr. Lou Falcon, professor of
entomology at UC Berkeley, will
speak on organic pesticides at the
Sept. 29 meeting. Rotary meets
Thursdays at 12:15 p.m. at the
Cerrito City Club.
League of Women Voters
The League is sponsoring a
series of Neighborhood Coffees
presenting the pro's and con's on
November ballot measures.
League members Ethel Gok,
Cleora Knapp and Louise
Vogelsberg will chair the discussion groups.

Vogelsberg will chair the discussion groups.

Meetings to be held in El Cerrito are on Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. at 7806 Potrero Ave. and on Oct. 12 at 2 p.m. at 1724 Arlington.
Every voter is invited.

California Retired Teachers
The West Contra Costa Division 58 regular lunch meeting will be held on Oct. 4 at St. Luke's
Methodist Church in Richmond.
Intrepid traveler Lou Allie Heath will speak on Antarctica — A Continent at the Bottom of the World. All retired teachers are in-

law.)

• SB 1255 (Roberti). Establishes an independent Small Business Development Center program under the authority of the Department of Commerce. (Signed into

law.)

• AB 1453 (Tanner). Establishes an \$11 million loan program to assist small businesses with hazardous waste problems. (To governor.)

• AB 1913 (Harris). Increases the small claims court jurisdiction from \$1500 to \$2500 by 1990. (Signed into law.)

AB 2738 (Moore). Makes it unlawful for any employers of 25 or more to refuse to grant an unpaid leave of absence to either parent for four months, for child-rearing purposes. (Died on Assembly floor.)

• SB 2260 (Keene). Authorizes a five-year tax credit under the personal income tax and bank and corporation tax law for a small business employer for costs incurred to provide employee health coverage. (To governor.)

• SB 1771 (L. Greene). Changes existing law by disallowing certain small business owners from filing a disclaimer of unemployment benefits in exchange for exemption from paying state unemployment insurance premiums. (Held in Assembly Finance and In-

Chamber...

vited to attend and learn more about Antarctica.

The club will sponsor a trip in October, A Day at Apple Hill, to the foothills of the Sierras. Phone 233-2777 for reservations.

LITA of Contra Costa

Love Is the Answer, an organization that provides visitors to convalescent homes, currently needs volunteers both as visitors and as coordinators of volunteers. Call LITA at 527-2055 for more information.

Oakland SPCA

visitors and as coordinators of volunteers. Call LITA at 527-2055 for more information.

Oakland SPCA

The Oakland Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which serves both Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, will hold its annual K-9 Fun Run on Oct. 16 beginning at 9 a.m. The one-mile walk or two-mile run is for dogs and their owners. Owners will receive a free T-shirt and dogs a free bandana. Entertainment will include a Stupid Pet Tricks event and refreshments. Registration fee is \$12 before Oct. 14 and \$15 thereafter. Call 569-0702 for registration forms. The Run benefits the SPCA.

East Bay Skeptics Society

A panel discussion of models was featured at the Sept. 25 meeting at LeConte Hall on the UC Berkeley campus. Daniel Sabsay was moderator. Panelists were Gilbert Shapiro, Michael Heiberger and Bruce Berkoff.

Michael Chriss, Professor of Astronomy and Humanities at the College of San Mateo, will be speaker at the Oct. 21 meeting. His topic will be Science and Nonsense, a Topic for Our Time covering cultural, intellectual and scientific milestones of western civilization. The public is invited. For information about the Society call 420-0202 or write 70 Yosemite Ave., No. 309, Oakland Members' slideshow travelletes.

94611.

Berkeley Camera Club

Members' slideshow travelletes
will be at 7:30 p.m. on Oct 18 at
the Live Oak Community Center
in Berkeley. Visitors are welcome.
For information call 524-5696.

surance Committee.)
AB 4088 (Johnston). Raises the

ceiling on weekly unemployment benefits by \$20. (To governor.)

Speak out on child care

ALBANY -- The Albany Child Care Committee, a group appointed by the City Council to study child care needs in the city, will distribute a survey to all Albany households next month. Residents are urged by committee members to fill out the

survey, which will be hand-delivered to each household, and return it to pick-up points to be designated.

For further information, call Bart Grossman at 528-3008, Diane Gross at 527-2148 or Sally Davis at 525-2800.

Heal It Through The ...

Grapevine

Journey through the mind

Heal It Through the Grapevine is a regular column in The Journal featuring common health questions answered by Lynda Efros, health educator, stress and weight management consultant, and proprietor of HealthBreak, a local health counselling service. Dear Lynda:

I really enjoyed your column on relaxation (Sept. 15). I've done both of the exercises and will continue to. But I was wondering if you could give us another, perhaps longer, guided imagery, maybe one that deals with concentrating on letting go and getting rid of obstacles in our lives. Also, sometime could you give us examples of other forms of relaxation exercises as well? I'm kind of in a stage of exploring various techniques. Thanks again for the summer exercises and thanks in advance for sharing some more exercises with your readers.

Gene in Albany Dear Gene:

exercises with your readers.

Gene in Albany

Dear Gene:

Of course I'm pleased that you
enjoyed the exercises but to ask
for more, well, that's really great!
Here's a guided imagery that just
might fit your request. It deals
with letting go and with realization and removal of obstacles to
happiness. I designed it to be used
at bedtime, as a suggestion for
meditation in the waking state
that can be carried into sleep. I
hope you enjoy it.

And, yes, I would be happy to
discuss and give examples of
other relazation techniques in the
near future. On to the relaxation!
It is important that you feel safe
and comfortable before you
begin! If you do not wish to fall
asleep at the close of the exercise,
try practicing it seated.
Remember, the most important

RNIN

OAKLAND

condition of the exercise is that you maintain an attitude of passive attention, one in which you ask yourself only to bring your thoughts back to the exercise (if your mind wanders) with no reprimand involved. Have fun!

On a mild spring day, you find yourself in your favorite woods. You sit in the green meadow and lean against one of two large oak shade trees. You place a small red silk pillow between your back and the tree for comfort.

Continue to breathe in a relaxed manner and feel your mind become quieter. The last thought you have before your drift off into a very relaxed sleep is to imagine that very small obstacle, though you may rarely be aware of it, that might be stopping you from achieving your realize what it is (take from achieving your dreams.
When you realize what it is (take your time) and you are ready to let go, let the tiny pebble fall from your hands into the water. Watch it sink to the bottom of the stream.

it sink to the bottom of the stream.

As you take in the lovely environment around you, the blue sky, the lush green growth, the singing birds and hooting owls, the scrambling squirrels, the flowers of every imaginable color, let the scene become a luscious blur of color and comfort and let it rock you gently into a sweet, peaceful sleep. (If you do not wish to go to sleep, change the last suggestion to "let it relax and invigorate you and when you are ready, open your eyes and continue your day in a relaxed, calm and alert manner".)

Send questions and comments to The Grapevine, P.O. 1624, El Cerrito 94530 or call Lynda at HealthBreak, 548-9312.

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On The Calendar

Mozelle Rogers will show slides on Australia, featuring Alice Springs, Ayers Rock and the Great Barrier Reef, at the Kensington Senior Center on Oct. 6 at 11 a.m. A potluck lunch will be served at noon. The center is at 52 Arlington, Kensington. For more information call Director Angela Lalime at 526-9146.

Bunraku (The National Puppet Theater of Japan) will appear at Zellerbach Hall on the UC Berkeley campus on Oct. 4 and 5 at 8 p.m.. The ornate, three-foot puppets will be accompanied by shamisen musicians.

The program is presented by CalPerformances in cooperation with the Consul General of Japan. For more information call 642-9988.

Be Prepared in a Healthcare Emergency will be the topic of a free community health lecture on Oct. 5 at 12:15 in the Brookside Hospital auditorium in San Pablo. Tom Padgett, MD, Medical Director of the Emergency Department, will present the program.

The Richmond Art Center will

Medical Director of the Emergency Department, will present the program.

The Richmond Art Center will hold a Jog and Walk-a-Thon on Oct. 8 from 9 to 10:30 a.m. at the El Cerrito High Track. Pieces of sculptural artwork will be presented as trophies to the man, woman and child completing the most laps, the person with the most sponsors and the most spirited participant.

The Jog will begin with a parade by the Stewart Tartan Scottish Bagpipers. Funds raised will benefit Center programs. For more information call 620-6772.

A workshop for widowed men and women will be held Oct. 6 at 7:30 p.m. sponsored by the Widows' Network in Walnut Creek. There will be a program, The Grief Process. For more information call 256-7952 weekdays from 1 to 5 p.m. presented by appraiser Toby O'Brien.

The Owner Builder Center will hold a course, How to Sell Your Own Home00on Oct. 1 from 1:30 p.m.to 5 p.m. presented by appraiser Toby O'Brien.

The OBC is a non-profit educational organization. For more information call Sydney at 848-6860.

The Berkeley/Richmond Jewish Community Center, 1414 Walnut St., Berkeley, as part of its REAP program for older adults presents cultural/hot kosher lunch programs Mondays

No.

and Thursdays through ()
Programs begin at 11:11
lunch at 12:15 p.m.
On Oct. 3 Relia
playwright, will present
taining 17th Century
Stories. For information
this and other progra
448-0237.
On Oct. 2 the U.S.

Ask-0237.
On Oct. 2 the UC be Garden will offer two sclasses, Exploring; Through Art. Instructor Cuoma will help children grass weaving and leaf mets from 1-2:30 p.m. to the company of t

Kensington Library's in of Picture Book Tingereschoolers will begin on at 1 p.m. and continuation of the transport of transport of the transport of the transport of transport of

Emiko Kawamoto, who visiting as an ambassadu Simada, Japan, Richasister city.

Community Hospice East Bay, serving people Cerrito regardless of their to pay, will hold their Benefit Auction on Oct. It to 5 p.m. at the Women's Club in 01 featuring weekend vacal Lake Tahoe, jewelry, a wine and spirits and man vine and spirits and ma rizes. Call 540-0830 fr



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Business Scene A new dining experience awaits us at the GRAND AVENUE BAR AND GRILL on Grand Avenue in Oakland. The long canopied walkway leading up to the entrance is only the beginning of this fine neighborhood bar and grill. "We want to always give the best to our customers — the best to our customers — the best food, and the best service — all in a friendly neighborhood atmosphere," commented Ron Childers, owner of the Grand Avenue Bar and Grill. "It's the personal touch that is important to the customer, and that means it's important to us." The interiors of the Grand Avenue, which opened last July, are highlighted with old black-and-white photos of Oakland in various stages of development. The early heritage photos are always interesting for comparing the city of old to modern Oakland. But enough of interiors and on to the main courses, which are

new dining expe

the city of old to modern Oakland.
But enough of interiors and on to the main courses, which are prepared with the freshest ingredients available in the Bay Area at an impressive open kitchen where you can see your meal being cooked.

The dinner entrees prepared by Rick Golding and his staff of eight include Veal Leta Belle, escallops of veal sauteed with fungi, tomato and Soave white wine; an Angus Beef New York Steak Senape, grilled with mustard and aromatics; and one of my favorites — sauteed

of my favorites — sauteed Prawns A La Grecque with tomato, garlic, Feta cheese and

ouzo.

Also on the dinner menu are Lamb Chops Margrit, with a shallot rose glace, and of course, fresh fish of the day, served with your choice of

served with your choice of sauces.

The lunch menu is equally grand with a full complement of sandwiches, gulf prawns, pasta dishes and salads.

The Gourmet Hamburger, with homemade fries and sweet onion, was rated No. 1 in the East Bay and No. 2 in the Bay Area by Narsai David on his KCBS radio show. Order it with cheese and it's twice as good.

The Grand Avenue Bar and Grill is in the tradition of Old Oakland — good food, good service and a place to meet good friends for lunch, dinner or cocktails.

rienas for unch, diffier or cocktails.

The Grand Avenue Bar and Grill is located at 3909 Grand Ave. in Oakland. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday for lunch, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.; dinner Monday through Thursday 5:30 to 10 p.m., Friday and Saturday 5:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.; closed Sundays. The phone number is 652-5223 P.S. Give Ron and staff a call for upcoming events at the Grand Avenue Bar and Grill.

And for the golf set, there's a family-style restaurant that many of us are familar with: THE MONTCLAIR RESTAURANT at the Montclair Golf Course, also run by Ron Childers.

This is a meat-and-potatos, sit-

By Michael S. Holm down-with-the-kids,

down-with-the-kids, "y
gonna-leave-full experiend
The restaurant is local
the clubhouse at the 9-nois
and putt golf course. It is
well kept secret.
Chef Tony Agnitsch
bartender Jim Souza, Und
my to most of us, sen
clubhouse regulars and
families country club late
bacon cheeseburgels
golfers' specials to baked
in white wine sauce and

The restaurant is open days a week and even early bird dinner nightly p.m. to 6:30 p.m.. The Montclair Res reminds me of my grow and looking foward to gv to Saturday dinner with n and dad and sometime behaved bettler. There behaved brother. There see and do, the wholesome and the generous. This is generous. This is mean by family style

The Montclair Resilocated at 2477 Monte at the Montclair Golf Hours of operation a days a week: lunch from the to 2:30 p.m., dind to 10 p.m., Sunday dim to 8:30 p.m., early-bird p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. if the fusing, call 482-4444, not be disappointed.

oviet Perspective: Revolution no. 2

arbachev's plan cere but unwanted

By Will Tizard CERRITO -- The Soviet is sweeping reforms under il Gorbachev are sincere, weepender of the control of the coverwhelming skepticism Russian leaders and work-

farians heard earlier this from Jane Dawson, a docandidate at UC Berkeley international relations by Dawson, who visited five years ago and again the property of the proper mmer, described Gorspecstroika plan as an
ing" first step towards
ing the Soviet economy.
term has been used by
helv to tout a drastic
in the way the Soviet
goes about solving its hardships. "It is very real and very susbstantial," said Dawson. However, the leader has a long way to go, she said, describing the way to go, site said, describing the staple foods available during both her visits as bread, ice cream and chocolate. Many other things were also left unchanged from five years ago, she said.

One example is room searches by secret police. The KGB is the slowest part of the Soviet system to reform, said Dawson, explaining that her room was searched and exposed camera film was taken during her latest visit. Nevertheless, debates about the KGB are beginning to surface in the Soviet press for the first time, she said.

Another constant from five years ago are shortages and lines. The situation is so bad that the Russians have a saying, "If you

In fact, "abysmal" is the best way to characterize living conditions, said Dawson. What's more, she said, even though experiments in individual enterprise are going on all over the country, the common people are still deeply skeptical of capitalism.

Neither the Baskin Robbins already operating in Moscow nor the McDonalds planned for later this month have been enough to convince Soviet workers that capitalism could help in their own workers.

Dawson.

At a summer party conference, for example, top Soviet leaders argued and yelled at each other throughout the six-day meeting, and all of it was televised.

Moscow's Pushkin Square is now the scene of open-air ideological discussion, where five years ago the tone was careful or muted, she said. "Everybody wants to buttonhole you," said Dawson, who speaks Russian almost fluently and spent her time staying with working-class Soviets.

Soviets.
Guards still overlook the strollers and debaters, but they remain on the steps of the square and do not impede conversation, said Dawson.

New books and art also delve into previously taboo areas. Paintings of the sylled and historically

New books and art also delve into previously taboo areas. Paintings of the exiled and historically erased Leon Trotsky now spur curious reactions from Muscovites, while classics in literature still occupy train riders. "In the cultural sphere, we're seeing tremendous opening up," said Dawson.

Therein may lie the key to what Gorbachev is really after, Dawson argued. If glasnost, or openness to the West, can be combined with limited political freedoms at home, Gorbachev believes the Soviet Union may again be able to involve its people deeply in thinking about their own future.

With that as a catalyst, the overwhelming economy odds facing the Soviet Union may begin to diminish. At the very least, Dawson said, Gorbachev will be armed with the hearts and minds of his people to build a strong economy, instead of just their ice-cream lined bellies.



Power Vacuum

Former City Manager Ron Creagh jests with Council-member Jean Siri at his farewell dinner Sept. 21.

Community Folk

By Clara-Rae Genser

Julia Morgan jaunt

Visiting Hearst Castle with a new perspective was very exciting for the 44 people who took part in the latest trip of the Oakland Museum's History Guild. We could all remember earlier visits when we gaped at the size, splendor and opulence of William Randolph's "little summer home."

This time, however, we were going to see Julia Morgan's greatest achievement.

Most of us spent an exciting hour earlier in the month listening to Sarah Holmes Boutelle speak

Most of us spent an exciting hour earlier in the month listening to Sarah Holmes Boutelle speak

World of architecture at the turn of the century; and the many, many people who have known and admired her work for many years. It is a beautiful and very rewarding book.

Our three day trip, put together by El Cerrito's Helen Tryon (with the aid and cooperation of her the life and work of the little-known architect Julia Morgan. Boutelle's book is of tremendous interest to many groups: Those in love with architectural beauty; those fascinated by this tiny dynam who invaded the male world of architecture at the turn of the century; and the many, many people who have known and admired her work for many years. It is a beautiful and very rewarding book.

Our three day trip, put together by El Cerrito's Helen Tryon (with the aid and cooperation of her turn of a remember earlier in Julia Morgan as its focus. As usual, many of the trippers were from our own special area.

The next day it was off to Hearst Castle and the various tours in which the group was enrolled.

concrete stairway complex meant to become the grand entrance, was the original entrance to this part of the building, gracefully built with tile and semi-circular walks, now completely hidden and unused. How had Julia Morgan felt when her already completed entranceway was buried? The grand entrance was never completed because about that time the funds ran out.

In the corridors near the gorgeous outdoor pool were the dressing rooms. Twelve for the men and 7 for the women. Why? Did fewer women in WRH's set swim? Did he invite more men? Questions, but no answers.

The swimming pools, both indoor and outdoor, are so breathtakingly lovely that all thought of who and why pales a bit and one just stares. But it is exciting to learn that those statues across the pool are on pedestals just the right height so that looking across the pool one can see the entire statue mirrored in the water. Such attention to detail.

The guest cottages were part of my tour as was the cottage where William Randolph Hearst and Marian Davies lived for the last few years of their stay in this home. Again, the touches, such as the shower for Hearst (who really questioned whether one could really get clean in this newfangled European idea of a shower), were amazing. His shower, we noted, had seven heads focusing on the showerer.

Julia Morgan was once asked, with all the art Hearst was finding and bringing in, and all the European artifacts, what period she was using. Morgan said it was called "Pleasing the client".

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But Are We Covered Against Insurance Initiatives?

By Devid Thom

Californians' anger and frustration over auto insurance rates has resulted in a flurry of insurance reform initiatives that await voters at the voting booth this November fourth.

Insurance companies, lawyers, and consumer groups were busy gathering over two million signatures this spring and summer for eight different insurance reform initiatives. Only five survived to make it on the ballot, and each claims it is best for consumers. consumers.

One thing is certain: Most

Prop. 100—20 percent ongoing reduction in auto rates for good drivers. Requires Department of Insurance review of some rate increases. Protects lawyer contingency fees, restricts use of home address in determining rates. Financed by the California Trial Lawyers Association.

Prop. 101—50 percent reduction for bodily injury and uninsured motorist coverage. Overall rate reduction of 35 percent. Limits lawyer contingency fees to 25 percent of economic losses recovered. Limits non-economic losses to 25 percent. Financed by Coastal Insurance Company.

November Insurance Initiatives

Californians think insurance costs are out of hand. Seventy-seven percent of California voters think auto insurance rates are "much too high," according to a California Poll taken this summer. Only four percent thought insurance rates were "about right."

The poll indicates Californians are as angry about insurance rates in 1988 as they were about property taxes in 1978, when taxslashing Proposition 13 was approved.

But cutting insurance rates will not be as easy as cutting property taxes was a decade ago. Voters

Ends insurance industry

Ends insurance industry anti-trust exemption. Allows banks to sell insurance, restricts use of home address. Financed by individual contributions. Prop. 104—Enacts no-fault insurance with basic package of benefits covering medical expenses, lost wages, and funeral costs. 20 percent reduction in average statewide premiums. Average reduction for individuals around 7-17 percent for two years. Insurance Commissioner gets right to enforce rate reductions. Basic benefits paid within 30 days. Limits lawyer contingency fees. Restricts non-economic losses, except for serious and permanent injuries. Financed by insurance companies. Prop. 106—Limits lawyer

will hear conflicting reasons and arguments explaining why auto insurance rates have soared and what it will take to bring them

down.

Insurance companies say litigation costs—inflated by "greedy" attorneys who pursue fraudulent or minor cases, are largely responsible for rising premiums. Insurers also cite 100 percent plus increases in costs for hospital stays, auto repair, and new car prices.

In short, insurers say they are just passing their costs on to the consumer.

It's an argument their op-

just passing their costs on to the consumer.

It's an argument their opponents in the insurance reform battle — and many of their policy holders — do not buy.

Attorneys argue that insurance companies are taking excessive profits and using exemptions from some anti-trust laws to keep insurance prices artificially high.

"Insurance companies' argument that legal fees are responsible for high auto insurance rates is a bunch of hogwash," Attorney John Dunn said. "They make phenomenal profits — mostly by "Insurance companies are losing money on their auto policies," said Kate Breen of the Insurance Information Institute.

"California insurance companies lost \$77 million on their auto policies in 1986," she added.

An injured motorist could not sue the other party unless: His injuries were "serious and permanent"; the offending driver was drunk; or if a driver's insurance was not adequate to pay his or his passengers' medical bills.

Only Florida and New York have no-fault systems similar to the one California is considering. Many officials in these states, including attorneys, have expressed satisfaction with no-fault.

However, Pennsylvania and

cluding attorneys, have expressed satisfaction with no-fault. However, Pennsylvania and Nevada both repealed their no-fault laws after they experienced consistent hikes in auto insurance premiums even when no-fault was implemented.

Twenty other states have much more flexible no-fault laws than the one on California's ballot.

These states allow a victim to sue if his medical bills exceed a certain threshold is \$100, while in New Jersey, where motorists pay the highest auto insurance rates in the country, the threshold is \$200.

Critics claim that insurance companies will force victims to Continued on page 18

Humane Society Pet of the Wes



Here's Corkie!

Corkie, a 2-year-old neutered male, needs a han To find out how to adopt him or other animals at Humane Society, call 845-3633.

Good in a crisis:

Emergency teams unity

By Christina Smith

By Christina Smith
The many city agencies that turned out for the Tri-City Safety Day aren't complete strangers to each other, despite their different jurisdictions. That's because they're all part of the "Multi-Hazard Function Plan," mandated by the state and adopted under its present format in Contra Costa County two years ago.

The plan, divided into various annexes, gives directions as to how various city and state agencies can participate in a coordinated rescue plan should a disaster such as a flood, earthquake or conflagration occur. Annexes include fire and rescue operations, law enforcementraffic control, medical, public health, coroner, care and shelter, and evacuation operations.

"Each city agency prepares under the guidelines of the annex that's most in line with its expertise," said Larry Armstrong, of the El Cerrito Fire Deptartment.

"Just about any kind of emergency you could think of, this plan The plan, divided into various

can be used to handle it."

Although the El Cerrito Fire Department hasn't yet needed to work under its guidelines, a more local cooperation agreement is used frequently. That agreement, begun in 1981, directs the closest department to respond to the call, regardless of the city boundaries. Similarly, the El Cerrito and Richmond fire departments have assisted each other under a mutual cooperation agreement. El Cerrito sent a number of units to the recent Safeway warehouse fire in Richmond.

All dispatch for Richmond, El Cerrito, Albany and Kensington is done from Richmond, so operation costs are lower in addition to response time being quicker.

"Like with our station 71, we're close to the Richmond border," said Armstrong, "for fires in that area it used to take Richmond a while to respond. Now we can just drive across the street. In all aspects it's really like one big fire department rather than four separate jurisdictions."

Safety...

Continued from page 1.

with fire safety instructions emblazoned on them, and cartoon films featuring Donald Duck and his nephews demonstrating proper evacuation procedures.

"Our end is geared to getting young kids interested — that's proven to be the best way to get parents to pay attention to fire safety," said Jay Murphy, of the El Cerrito Fire Department.

The demonstration of the canine units of the Danville Police and El Cerrito Sheriff's Department drew the biggest crowd. Two German Shepherds and a Rotweiler were put through their paces, which included attacking the special padded sleeve of a "thief" attempting to resist arrest.

The dogs are purchased by and

The dogs are purchased by and belong to the officer who volunteers to be a canine handler, one officer explained. The dogs require an average of six months of intensive training before joining the force.

of intensive training before joining the force.

They continue to receive 10 hours of training per week in responding to spoken commands and hand signals, climbing ladders, scaling six-foot walls, and tracking throughout the time they are used by the department.

In spite of their demonstrated ferocity, the dogs are trained to be good with children and remained relaxed when children

The Kensington Fr

ting the usually critic victims to the hospita The UC Bomb Sq off its remote contro and blew up several to demonstrate the blasting caps. The report at the univers in 1985, but the squa-serpording to called.

chemicals.

Among the many cies participating in the were the Red Cross, Hospital Burn Uni Regional Ambulance, Highway Patrol, A Dept., and the I Regional Park Dept.

Manager...

Coastal Insurance Company.
Prop. 103—Flat 20 percent reduction for auto, fire, and liability insurance rates for one year. Makes insurance Commissioner an elected post. Requires commissioner approval for all rate changes. Establishes non-profit corporation to represent insurance consumers.

Continued from page 1
Applications for the councilmember opening are due Monday, Oct. 3, at noon. The position comes with a small salary and medical benefits.

Applications formerly on file will not be considered, the Council agreed. They stressed that

companies.

Prop. 106—Limits lawyer contingency fees to 25 percent of first \$50,000 recovered, 15 percent of the next \$50,000, and 10 percent of amount recovered above \$100,000.

anyone wishing to serve in the council position, which will expire next November, must resubmit their applications.

Candidates will have to answer interview questions on their feelings about the Street Light and Landscaping Assesment, what they would do differently.

San Pablo...

Cutting Boulevard, which now has only three street lights, will have six when the work is finished, said Dunn. The 242 lights on San Pablo Avenue will not

Throughout the construction period, two southbound lanes must be open during morning rush hour and two northbound

Keeping it clean

lanes must be open after work from Monday through Thursday, said Dunn. Two lanes must be open in both directions all day on Fridays, weekends and the day before holidays.

"If we have any land closures during the Christmas Season, I'm dead meat," said Dunn, referring to complaints from merchants when access to their stores is cut.

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gerkeley Rep's psychodrama treads the boards but never gets a-Hedda

opener, Hedda Gabler, is a afted presentation of intense exploration of the of an aristocratic woman's with a woman as his hero, combines social and logical themes in the play ocked the polite society of

logical includes a cocked the politic society of 19th century.

la is grotesquely trapped; ong for her position as a 1, she is also too proud to with the politic state of the po

semotions.

en McLaughlin, a
ght and actress whose The
ped was performed at the
Theatre, makes powerful,
ten unappealingly unusual
in the lead role. Her porof Hedda's strength
treval enough of the inner

she projects a sarcastic, uelty that rarely lets up



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OAKLAND

her husband Jorgen (Jeffery Bihr), and his aunt "Luli" (the ever-lovable Barbara Oliver), show that she makes no attempt to hide her scorn of her new hus-band and his family. Openly rude and sneering, her mouth twists in disgust as she insults Luli's new

disgust as she insults Luli's new hat.

Much of the difficulty with McLaughlin's Hedda stems from an admirable attempt to create a unique, vibrant woman out of the ambiguously written role. McLaughlin achieves a brazen originality, but strikes a menacing and often overbearing note which often overwhelms the delicate balance of the play.

All too often, her gestures are distractingly odd, and at times, incongruous with her rank and station. She contorts and twists her face, switching from a drooping frown to a narrow-eyed stare of hatred. She leans toward the other characters, staring them down in a defiant show of strength. Slapping her arms harshly at her sides and throwing down objects around her, she makes shows of physical force out of place for a woman of the late 19th century.

And while McLaughlin creates

of place for a woman of the late 19th century.

And while McLaughlin creates a believable character, and is a dedicated, charismatic actor, her Hedda is so disgusted with life that she doesn't present the hope needed to carry the play. Although described by Amlin Gray in the show's program as "the idealist in her play," she comes across in this production as so vicious that the audience isn't allowed to experience her idealism.

idealism.

Two of the male characters present more simple forms of idealism, yet Hedda's mocking of them too often seems simply



Jorgen is presented by Bihr as a naive academic who tries to make things work out, but who doesn't understand the complex nature of his new wife. Despite Bihr's light comic touch, their relationship is slightly skewed. His neglect of her could appear a tragedy, but in this production, Hedda is a lion attacking her husband as if he's a helpless mouse.

The misbalance between Hedda and her former love Eilert Lovborg (Charles Dean), is more serious. Dean is a fine, capable actor, but lacks the necessary fire to be an adequate sparring partner for Hedda.

While Hedda talks of his hav-ing "vineleaves in his hair," because he is an idealistic author, he can't break through her im-penetrable wall either. She goads and sneers at him, too. He fares no better than her husband or his simpleton aunt. This reduces the resonance of the play's haunting conclusion.

The balance of the show is off, yet the experience is a typical, high-quality Berkeley Rep production.

Acting is of a uniformly high

confidence radiating brightly from Charles Lanyer as the sinister Judge Brack. The timing between characters is well worked through, due to the skills of visiting director M. Burke Walker, who keeps the show rolling at an explosive pace.

John Bonard Wilson's large period set is a masterpiece of dark, somber browns and grays. It ably creates the dull opulence which strangles Hedda. As in other shows, the entrance to the lobby is creatively used to enlarge and enhance the stage space.

Skillful lighting by Peter Maradudin highlights areas of the

Ellen McLaughlin as Hedda and Charles Dean as her ex-lover Eilert Lovborg argue in this explosive version of *Hedda Gabler*.

stage, and later dims them, suggesting a flux of light and darkness within Hedda's mind. The window on the side of the stage is used well; it ranges from bright sunlight to dim shade, creating an able setting for the introspective, moody script.

This production is the beginning of "an ongoing exploration...of the dramatic literature of the late 19th century when the seeds of the feminist movement in our century were planted," according to Artistic Director Sharon Ott. That crucial, difficult goal is treated only adequately here.

While McLaushin attempts to shows a woman tortured by enforced inertia, she is too difficult to identify with. Resultingly, as with many early women heros, her story is not emotionally conveyed to the audience.

Gray writes in the program that "Ibsen's mature plays have contradictions within them. Each is its own counter-play. Contradiction was Ibsen's guiding passion, His dying words were 'On the contrary..."

His dying worus contrary..."

Each lbsen play will be annoying and frustrating to the audience. Although this production is often overshadowed by McLaughlin's brutality, it must certainly be within the realm of how lbsen imagined his tortured heroine. And ultimately, the brave production seems to be in

Behind the velvet curtain: New comedy unveiled at CCCT

By Barbara Hulley

EL CERRITO — To a casual observer, all is chaos. At the evening rehearsal for Contra Costa Civic Theatre's season opener, Social Security, the actors are in jeans and sneakers. The stage

set. In theater, appearance is always deceptive. Behind the disorganized surface, director Louis Flynn, 30-year veteran of the community theater, has the able cast well in hand.

When the show opens Oct. 7, he knows the set will be elaborate,

the actors costumed, and the lines and movements exactly memorized. The world of illusion will be set, so the audience can be drawn in. But for now, actors and director must pass the evening as Flynn hones each humorous moment to perfection.

perfection.

The work appears worth it. The comedy, one of the few plays by screenwriter Andrew Bergman, known for such hits as Blazing Saddles and Oh, God, ran on Broadway with Marlo Thomas and Olympia Dukakis. Dubbed by the company as "the ultimate mother-in-law story," the play features an elderly mother, shuffled between her married

daughters, who finally finds a love of her own, a 98-year-old artist. It has what Flynn calls "Neil Simon-esque humor": Witty dialogue and fast-paced, funny characters.

characters.

It seems perfect for the energetic Flynn, who says he "can tell a Neil Simon play in the dark without knowing who wrote it," having been involved in all past CCCT Simon productions.

Watching him work is an education in creating humor. He can make any comic moment funnier; throughout the rehearsal, an already entertainng scene is fur-



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A walk through time highlights Albany's 80 years

By Catherine J. Webb

ALBANY -- Efforts to record Albany's history have proceeded in several stages. First, there was the 1947 Story of Albany, then 1983's Stories of Albany. Now a new version is underway called Happily May I Walk.

The first history of Albany was compiled by the Albany Police and Fire Employees Civil Service Club under the guidance of Fire Chief Gerald Brown. This history included tales of Indians, the coming of the Spaniards, American adventurers, powder plants in Albany, early landmarks, Albany pioneers, and the school district.

An interesting chapter entitled Aromatic Question delves into a smelly business which was a custom of Berkeley. People loaded their wagons with garbage and dumped it in the open lots near Buchanan Street. The incorporation of Ocean View (as Albany was first named) in 1908 was designed to give the pioneer set-

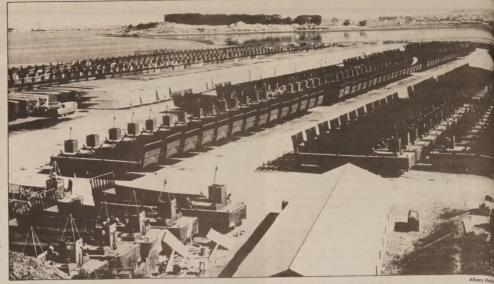
tlers some of the authority needed to control the garbage dumping.

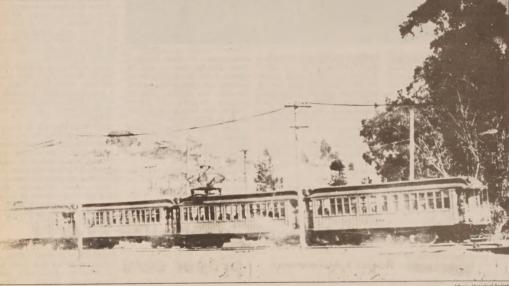
Albany held to its sense of independence even as it was influenced by the industrialization of the Bay Area and the advent of the motor car. An article in the Oakland Tribune of January, 1920, spelled out the attraction industrialization had for some Albany residents:

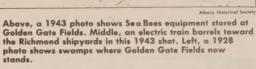
"Albany can honestly say that it has had the largest growth of any city in the County of Alameda. The Lofler Industrial Survey makes that statement and those who know the conditions of Albany believe that the growth in the next decade will be greater than that in the last."

"Despairing of securing proper recognition from any of the larger cities of the East Bay district the people of Albany determined to incorporate and manage their own municipal affairs which they have done with great success."

The industrial project which Albany sought was the location of the naval base on Albany's mud









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flats. In 1913 the city fathers erected a 100 foot sign on Pierce Street where it could be seen from the Southern Pacific mainland. The sign read, "Albany, Proposed Site of the Naval Base." Albany accepted its loss of the naval base and only a few industries found a home in Albany.

Albany continued to grow and maintained its independence, but settled for homes and a few income-producing activities such as the Golden Gate Fields race track and a two street commercial

district.

This 1920 description of Albany holds true on its 80th birthday: "Albany has been blessed with a population that took an interest in their home affairs and which was quick to grasp the many opportunities that have come to them. With wide awake citizenry it was natural that wide awake officials should result (not without many controversies) and that a town spirit should be

developed. The opely a few years a transformed into a Alameda County is Happily May newest history of Apand on the relatio to the land. Permi obtained from Mal to reproduce his Albany during the Native Americans.

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Auto Scene

ty David Fetherston

ing no the content of ways from the same of the sail with graceful in 1800 to the tail with graceful in 1800 to the tail with graceful in 1800 to the tail with graceful in 1800 to the sail of the sa

Ford and Chevy turn out the classics

standard, LX and Super Coupe. Gone is the 5-liter FI V8 and turbo four; they've been replaced with a pair of variations on Ford's new 3.8-liter generic V6. The standard engine uses sequential fuel injection and comes with a standard four-speed automatic transmission.

that fuer injection and a standard four-speed automatic transmission.

The optional engine, available only on the Super Coupe, is the same 3.8-liter V6 but it's equipped with a supercharger and intercooler. The combo pumps out a good 210 horsepower and a massive 315-foot pounds of tor-

No turbo troubles

The supercharged engine uses a belt-driven blower which gives excellent "power on demand" without the lag problem of a turbo charger.

The move to supercharging changes both the driving and the mechanical method of forced induction Ford has been using over the past few years. Where the turbo is driven by the force of exhaust gas being pumped through a turbine housing, the supercharger is driven directly off the crankshaft with a belt, eliminating "turbo lag."

The Super Coupe also comes equipped with unrated support

Royalty arrives

Chevrolet's long- awaited Corvette has finally arrived. As per pre-release predictions, it's a powerful beast built with the help of several outside companies in two different countries.

Officially called the ZR1, the

That was before the days of the great oil wars when the performance really meant horsepower.

Chevy, with their fifth-generation Corvette, set the sports car world on fire when they introduced the current design in 1984. Since that time, it has been substantially refined but is still, bodily, very much as it was when introduced.

form.

The engine was developed as a joint venture between GM's Group Lotus Division and Hethel England, CPC Engineering in the U.S., and Mercury Marine (the outboard builders) who manufactured the engine for Chevy in Stillwater, Ok.

Extensive testing of a large number of super-duty V8 and V6 configurations resulted in the cur-

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sare and economical operation of their cars.

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profile was way over acceptable limits.

The numbers that finally hit the production line reflect the clean-sheet-of-paper approach that Lotus proposed as an alternative to re-engineering the existing 350 Chevrolet small block.

The new engine is unique among American production V8s. The 5.7-liter V8 (350 cubic inch) is all-aluminum, runs 11.25 to 1 compression, has a full engine management computer system and alloy heads with dual overhead cams running direct lobe to lifter contact.

Dave McLellan aimed at building the new ZR1 Corvette as a bimodel vehicle-a car; that is, two cars in one. First he wanted a powertrain that could accommodate the driver with quiet, docile street performance but that on command would offer the speed, precision and responsive handling close to a pure race car.

To make full use of the enormous power of the new engine, Chevy has replaced the Doug Nash 4/3 speed overdrive transmission with a new ZF-designed six-speed gearbox, which gives a more even use of power and tor-

sion similar to the Mazda/Ford sports suspensions for better around town ride and low tire pressure warning system.

McLellan has aimed high with the ZR1 package. The combined engineering of three major companies built the new ZR1, and from all reports so far it seems they've come very close to achieving McLellan's goal.

ing McLellan's goal.

The ZR1 is expected to sell for over \$50,000 and will be produced in only very limited numbers.

General Motors announced through their Chevrolet division a new nameplate called GEO along with a new line of automobiles.

Four GEO vehicles will be introduced as the 1989 line. These include the tine Metro, Spectrum, the Prism and the new Suzukibased off-road Tracker.

oased OH-road Tracker.

The Metro is aimed at the economy-minded buyer and it, too, is a Suzuki based product based on a 92-inch wheelbase. Its integrated body design gives it a show-car look with flush glass and aero-grille and head lights. Chevy expects to introduce a convertible version in 1990.

The Spectrum is an account has inflation check or carrying an air gauge.

Tires should be checked at least once a month and before any long trip. Under-inflation creates excessive heat, which seriously reduces tire life and can cause tire failure. Under-inflation can also increase rolling resistance and lower miles per gallon.

Don't go bald early. At least once a month, inspect tires closely for signs of uneven wear. Uneven wear patterns may be caused by improper inflation pressures, misalignment, improper balance, or suspension neglect. If caught in time, the cause may be corrected.

When the tread is worn down

The Spectrum is an Isuzu based product for the compact market that's also aimed at economy buyers.

The Prism will use the 1.6-liter 16-valve Toyota engine and come with a full host of options and equipment now found in similar Japanese-built vehicles.

Japanese-built vehicles.

The GLO Tracker is a joint effort between GM and Suzuki to be built in Canada. It comes in two models, soft and hard top, equipped with a good base selection of options. Its four-wheel-drive capabilities are similar to the current Suzuki Samuri, but its lower center of gravity and flashier body style puts it a mile ahead of the older Samurai.



Chevrolet's Corvette ZR1 was built with the help of several different companies

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to replace the tire.

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Squeaky brakes are not always

When the tread is worn down to two-thirty-seconds of an inch, or wear bars, which look like thin strips of smooth rubber across the tread, appear on the tire, it's time to replace the tire.

However, if the noise continues, or brake linings haven't been changed for 20,000 miles, a professional check could be in order.

If the car seems to pull to one side or appears to be traveling at an angle while all four wheels are straight, and the tire tread is wearing unevenly, the car is probably out of alignment.



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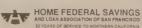
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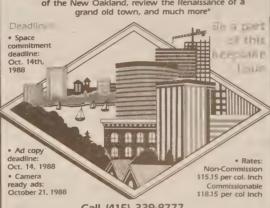
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CCCT...

Continued from page 18
ther spiced up by his suggested gestures, pauses, and movements.
Actor Bill Barry, who plays the mother-in-law's aged love, calls Flynn an "on and off" director, because, "He's always on the stage. He shows actors what to do, sits down again, then jumps up to show another movement." True to this assessment, Flynn is on the stage constantly throughout the long rehearsal. He is impressed with his cast, saying, "There is great chemistry here. These people have a lot of experience and the play should be a lot of laughs."

Comedy is a lot harder than it appears, according to several of the actors. Barry, a familiar face to many Bay Area theatergoers because he's been acting locally for 50 years, feels that "All actors like to do comedy. It's the most difficult to do. Audiences don't know that." Although he's performed in a wide variety of plays, including Shakespeare and contemporary drama, Barry always returns to comedy. "It's unpredictable. You never know when a laugh will come. You must always be prepared for it, though," he says, with a slow Mari Shine, who plays one of the daughters in Social Security.

smile.

Mari Shine, who plays one of the daughters in Social Security, feels that comedy is the biggest stretch for her. "The challenge is to be the character as much as you can be. Don't try to be funny." She is happy with Flynn's work. "He's brilliant. He did the blocking (stage movements) right away. Then, because we did the action first, behavior creates the

character. Also, he allows the characters to be three-dimensional. They're very human-not caricatures." She finds the play "one of the most hopeful shows I've done. People change and evolve. It's a lot like real life. One of the important things about this show is that it lets people laugh at themselves."

Within the humerous structure, the play addresses many issues important for modern families. The play's two daughters can't decide where their mother should live, and the mother, feeling like a burden, is often grumpy. "This will appeal to a wide age range," says CCCT Publicist Parcae Fort. "All of us have parents who drive us up the wall at some point in time. Yet it will appeal to an older audience, too. It shows the mother in a good light. It shows that she can fall in love, travel, all at her age. The issues it deals with could happen at any point in time." Actor Shine agrees. "I worked out a lot of personal family problems through during the show. It made me think about my family in a new way.

One of the theater's main strengths is the variety of audience it attracts. Through a children's theater program, "kids of all ages are involved in the theater year-round," according to Fort. Adults and seniors have many opportunities to be involved, too. "This theater is really open to anyone who wants to be involved," says Fort.

A product for the community,

the theater is one of a g community theaters wh primarily operated by voj Small theaters such as the

and it will only cost \$1.

CCCT is one of the area, according to Barr this is largely due to family, who began that the analytic street of the and who are still very "Sets (by Louis Flynn." As anything you'd ever was He also has high praise Flynn. "He listens. Ht trol, but not dominating. The theater owes it to the people who be who still work there, as Flynn family and the chores, according to Fd oit because you like In fact, a lot of people the theater started fit thing."

Meanwhile, four act bare stage await a wallouis Flynn. Rising feet.

bare stage await a v Louis Flynn. Rising fro the empty house, he so chin. "Let's try it a

Continued from page 3 to-School Night, 7-9 p.m., Bake

Oct. 6: Faculty-staff Recogni-tion Reception
Oct. 6: Minimum Day, Back-to-School Night, 7 p.m.
Oct. 8: SAT Test
Call the school at 235-2291.

Parochial Schools
St. Jerome's School
Sept. 30: Feast of St. Jerom
Oct. 7: School Liturgy, 9

a.m.
Oct. 9: Liturgy, 9 a.m.
Oct. 10: School Holiday
(Columbus Day)
Call the school at 525-9484.
St. John's School
Sept. 26-30: SRA Testing
Oct. 3: First full day for first

Oct. 3: First full day for first graders
Oct. 3: LITA Student Meeting,
9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.
Oct. 5: Free Dress Day, 2 p.m.
dismissal
Oct. 6: Hearing Retesting
Oct. 10: School Holiday
(Columbus Day)
Oct. 15: Recycling Day, 10
a.m. to 2 p.m., Kearney Street

Albany School District The school district number is 526-6441. List are the schools, their numbers and upcoming Cornell Elements Sept. 29: PTA Meti

Cornell Elementary
Sept. 29: PTA Media,
p.m., Library
Oct. 15: Cleanup-Fund
a.m. to 1 p.m.
Call the school at 52:1
Albany High Schot
Back-to-Schod
starts in Gym, 7 p.m.
Oct. 8: SAT Test
Oct. 15: PSAT Test all
High

Insure...

Continued from page 8
use workman's compensation,
delaying payments on claims and
then paying as little as they can."
El Cerrito insurance broker
Alan Caruso paints a much different picture. "I've lost money
on my auto policies three of the
last five years," he said. "Iff my
office were representative of the
insurance industry, they'd be
broke," he added.

These conflicting stories are

These conflicting stories are typical of what has become a bitterly fought and expensive campaign. Four groups, insurance companies, trial lawyers, a consumer advocate group, and Assemblyman Richard Polanco, are spending more than \$50 million to pass their initiatives.

Insurance companies have the biggest wallets by far; they plan on pouring \$43 million dollars — three times more than any ballot measure in California history — into Proposition 104, the no-fault initiative, and Proposition 106 to limit attroney contingency fees. (For a detailed explanation of each initiative, see the accompanying box).

They have hired Clint Riley, a nationally known campaign consultant, and are running one of the slickest initive campaigns California has ever seen.

The next biggest spender is the California Trial Lawyers Association which will pony up about \$6 million dollars to pass Proposition 100, which, among other things, will protect attorneys' contingency fees, lower rates 20 percent for good drivers and allow banks to sell insurance.

Another player in the insurance regulation game is the Ralph Nader-backed Voter Revolt, which is sponsoring Proposition 103. This initiative would cut insurance rates a flat 20 percent, make the insurance commissioner an elected — rather than appointed — post, base insurance rates on a driver's record, and require insurance commissioner approval of all rate increases.

Insurance companies say passage of 103 will be catastrophic for the insurance business, forcing some companies out of business. The bureaucratic

Proposition 103 campaign manager Jack Murgia says these claims are nonsense. "In their own financial reports insurance companies say they have increased profits 726 percent over the last three years and ended the price war of the early eighties.

The charge that insurance companies are gouging customers and making extraordinary profits has plagued the industry for years. But insurance companies have consistently denied the charges. "Insurance companies are losing money on their auto policies," said Kate Breen of the Insurance Information Institute. "California insurance companies lost \$77 million on their auto policies in 1986," she added.

Both insurance companies and their opponents can provide figures to back up their claims, but each group uses accounting methods that either boost or ower profit figures.

It is difficult to arrive at a precise profit figure on auto insurance policies, but it is clear that insurance companies are making significant profits if they account for all of the types of insurance they sell — home, life, fire, etc.

While their opposition has tried to focus on their bottom line, insurance companies have been busy singing the praises of nofault insurance and attacking the rival insurance proposals.

Under no-fault, injured drivers and passengers collect benefits for injuries and lost wages from their o w n in s u r a n c e c o m-panies — regardless of who was at fault in the accident.

disability, and other state and federal funds before the insurance

undecided about who trust.

"I'm still studying issues. I'm not sure how Albany resident Wahraham said. "Every auto insurance goes up don't have an actionuldn't have to pay who do have accide added.

Abraham is typical drivers; angry about bauto insurance payment sure about which of the tions is the "solution" to be.

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to-School Night, 7-9 p.m., Bake Sale in cafeteria Oct. 8: SAT Test, 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., El Cerrito High Call the school at 525-0234.

Kennedy High Math/Science/Technology Sept. 29: Freshman Officers Inauguration Sept. 30-Oct. 1: Play: 'Barefoot in the Park', 7:30 p.m., cafeteria Oct. 4: All City Council Barbecue Oct. 5: School Pictures Oct. 6: Faculty-Staff Recognition Reception

red-tape and drastic premium reductions will cripple the in-surance industry according to officials.

company will pay the motorist anything.

anything.

Insurance company representatives say this is simply not true.

They say no-fault is the only way to control auto insurance rates given the huge increases in the costs of reimbursing people for medical and auto repair bills.

But their opponents claim that

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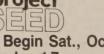
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Class Notes

Boyan's equation = more math and science

By Juliana Ferraz de Rocha

EL CERRITO -- Craig Boyan is trying to reach an equation at Cornell Elementary School. The friendly and talkative man, who was appointed as new principal in June, has high hopes for the school's recent emphasis in math and science.

Starting in a newly painted school, with new windows, new carpets and a new playground surface, Boyan said he is excited about this new experience. "This is a specially happy place. I am delighted to be here," he said.

Boyan, who has ten years experience with the Albany School District, nevertheless had to face the barage of interviews with parents, administrators, teachers, staff, and finally the district superintendent and the school board to reach this level.

Having survived that, he intends to focus his administration on two areas, math and science. Math was chosen mainly because Cornell was selected in summer 1987 as one of a small number of schools in California to participate in a program of the "math curriculum implementation center" in Hayward.

The center is part of a state-funded program that provides teacher training on home campuses. Cornell's math teachers have been trained by educators from the center again this year. Essentially, the program's purpose is to get teachers acquainted with new ideas about teaching math.

"Most new ideas are complex, but if I were to state them simply, I would say children learn best by doing things. It is important that children see math as a way of solving problems, instead of just memorizing how to do addition and substraction," Boyan said.

"We want children to develop their understanding of how math works and how it can be applied to their real lives. These two things need to be balanced," he added.

New materials were introduced by the innovative program. In-stead of just paper, pencils and workbooks, children were given things they could use with their hands. Little blocks, cubes and rocks were some of the tools used to add and subtract.

This is the second year of the nree-year project.

Science will be another intensive study area this year. "We think this is a good place for young children to get excited about living things and other wonders of nature," said Boyan.

The main focus will be biological science, as opposed to physics and chemistry. Marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales, are very popular among kids and the school is looking for an exciting project in this area, according to Boyan.

"The idea of teaching for understanding also applies to science. For instance, we do not want kids to just memorize facts about magnetism. We want them to actually work with magnets,"

e said. One condition Boyan will have

Gaucho football

Westmnt-Sept. 30 7:30° Cltn. Valley-Oct. 7 7:30 Pinole-Oct. 14 7:30° Ygnacio-Oct. 22 7:30 Pittsburgh-Oct. 28 7:30 Antioch-Nov. 4 7:30 ° D.L.Salle-Nov. 10 7:30 ° Berkeley-Nov. 18 7:30

Cougar football

Richmnd-Sept. 30 3:30* Kennedy-Oct. 7 3:30 O'Dowd-Oct. 14 3:30* St. Mary's-Oct 22 1:30 Piedmont-Oct. 28 3:30* Encinal-Nov. 4 3:00 Alameda-Nov. 11 3:00

denotes home game

to meet is a list of curriculum guides put out by the state in the last five years. Boyan said his purpose is to take the state's best thinking, combine it with what the school is doing and come up with a synthesis. It is a way of coordinating what the district schools are doing with what is happening at the state level, he said.

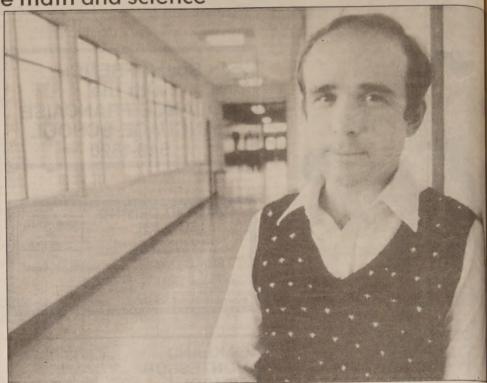
schools are doing with what is happening at the state level, he said.

He also emphasized that October is membership month for the PTA. "We have a very good and strong PTA board. Our schools could not run without the help of parents volunteering. They help in the classrooms, with field trips, in the library, on the playground, everywhere. They raise funds for things we could not do otherwise," he said.

A winter holiday sale is already scheduled for the early part of December, during which the PTA will buy goods at the regular price and make them available to children at low prices. Kids can then give them to people for the holidays.

Talks geared toward parent education are also a likely part of the PTA's plans. Past speakers have talked on topics ranging from getting along with children in the home to how computers are used in the school.

"I have been working with the PTA and I am certain that we will have a lot of fun things for parents to work on, so that they become part of the lights of the school," Boyan said.



Craig Boyan





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